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Book IV, Part II

REBEL JAIL

It is a period of renewed hope for the Rebellion. After surviving another dangerous encounter with Darth Vader, rebel heroes Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Han Solo have taken the evil Sith Lord's secret ally, droid and weapon specialist Dr. Aphra, captive.

Teaming with smuggler Sana Starros, Princess Leia hands Aphra to the best-concealed penitentiary she knows: Sunspot Prison. There, Aphra is expected to be imprisoned indefinitely, lest the Empire uncover her location and reclaim her.

Elsewhere, Han and Luke are busy replenishing supplies for the Alliance, that is until Han gambles and loses the rebel funds. Meanwhile, a security breach back at Sunspot Prison bodes ill for the rebels....

JASON AARON
Writer

LEINIL FRANCIS YU
Penciler

GERRY ALANGUILAN
Inker

SUNNY GHO
Colorist

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
Letterer

TERRY DODSON & RACHEL DODSON
Cover Artists

HEATHER ANTOS
Assistant Editor

JORDAN D. WHITE
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Executive Editor

AXEL ALONSO
Editor In Chief

JOE QUESADA
Chief Creative Officer

DAN BUCKLEY
Publisher

For Lucasfilm:
Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN
Senior Editor FRANK PARISI
Lucasfilm Story Group RAYNE ROBERTS, PABLO HIDALGO, LELAND CHEE, MATT MARTIN

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I THINK YOU CAN STOP THAT, SANA. I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE DEAD.
I HATE DROIDS.
I MEAN, I REALLY HATE DROIDS.

ANYBODY SEE ANY MORE DROIDS THAT SHOULDN'T BE HERE? DID WE GET THEM ALL?
NOTHING ELSE ON THE SCANNERS. IN THIS SECTOR AT LEAST.
THEIR EYES ARE ALWAYS SO CREEPY. WHY DO THEY MAKE THEM WITH SUCH CREEPY EYES?
THESE ARE IG-RM DROIDS. MOSTLY USED AS THUGS AND ENFORCERS BY CRIME LORDS. THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CREEPY.
THIS IS LEIA TO CONTROL ROOM. THE INFILTRATION IN THE WEST SECTOR HAS BEEN DEALT WITH. DO WE HAVE AN ALL CLEAR?
UHMM, NO, I'M AFRAID NOT.
YOU CLEARLY DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE WEST SECTOR WAS ONLY A DIVERSION.
A DIVERSION? WARDEN, WHAT ARE YOU...
WAIT...
THIS ISN'T THE WARDEN, IS IT?
NOT EXACTLY.

BUT YOU ARE TALKING TO THE MAN IN CHARGE.

THE CONTROL ROOM IS MINE NOW. WHICH MEANS THIS *PRISON* IS NOW MINE, TOO.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE WARDEN?

NOTHING YET. HE MAY BE A FOOL, BUT HE'S NOT A BAD MAN.

YOU'RE THE FOOL, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN--

HUGGH!

I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN HURTING THE BAD ONES.

LISTEN TO ME, WHOEVER YOU ARE, IF YOU THINK FOR A SECOND I'M GOING TO LET YOU BREAK A SINGLE SOUL OUT OF THIS PRISON, YOU'RE IN FOR A RUDE--

OH, YOU POOR, MISGUIDED PRINCESS.

I'M NOT HERE TO BREAK ANYONE OUT.

THEY'RE IN POSITION.
TELL ME, PRINCESS... CAN YOU SEE CELL-BLOCK SEVEN FROM WHERE YOU ARE?

NO, WHAT ARE YOU...
I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO HELP YOU, LEIA. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS SAVING HERE. NOT THESE PRISONERS.

THESE PRISONERS ARE BEYOND SALVATION.
OPEN FIRE.

NO!

YOU'RE A MURDERER.
NO, AN EXECUTIONER. THE DEAD MEN IN THE CELLS, THEY WERE THE MURDERERS.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO READ THEIR LISTS OF CRIMES? IT WOULD TAKE QUITE A WHILE. AND I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T HAVE THAT LONG.

I AGREE WITH THIS GUY. IS IT TOO LATE TO JOIN HIS SIDE?
I'M NOT GOING TO DEBATE YOU. I'M JUST GOING TO STOP YOU. YOU'RE NOT KILLING ANYONE ELSE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS. I WON'T LET YOU GUN THEM ALL DOWN.
I KNOW YOU WON'T. BECAUSE YOU STILL BELIEVE YOU'RE FIGHTING A NOBLE FIGHT, DON'T YOU?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING NOBLE ABOUT WAR, PRINCESS. NOT IF YOU WANT TO WIN.

YOU ARE.

I'VE JUST RELEASED 17 COLD-BLOODED MURDERERS FROM THEIR CELLS, PRINCESS.
PERHAPS YOU CAN HAVE THAT DEBATE WITH THEM.

THOUGH IF YOU'D RATHER LIVE...
...I SUGGEST YOU GET BUSY KILLING THEM.

NAR SHADDAA. THE SMUGGLER'S MOON.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. I NEED A FAST SHIP, BUT THE OTHER PILOTS HERE, THEY...THEY TURNED ME DOWN WHEN THEY SAW WHAT I...
I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF YOUR SHIP IS FAST. THAT'S IT OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
NO OFFENSE, BUT...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON*? IT'S THE SHIP THAT MADE THE KESSEL RUN IN LESS THAN 12 PARSECS.
WHAT'S A KESSEL RUN?
IT'S FAST ENOUGH FOR YOU, PAL.

NOW... SHOW ME THIS CARGO.
WELL? HOW'D IT GO?
DID YOU GET 10,000?
FIVE.
FIVE? WE'RE NOT RUNNING A CHARITY HERE, KID. WHAT KIND OF SMUGGLER ARE YOU?
IF YOU WANTED MORE, YOU SHOULD'VE GONE YOURSELF. BUT LET ME GUESS, YOU USED TO CHEAT AT SABACC HERE, TOO.
AT LEAST TELL ME IT'S AN EASY CARGO. BLACK MARKET DROID PARTS? A FEW CRATES OF SPICE MAYBE?
NOT EXACTLY.

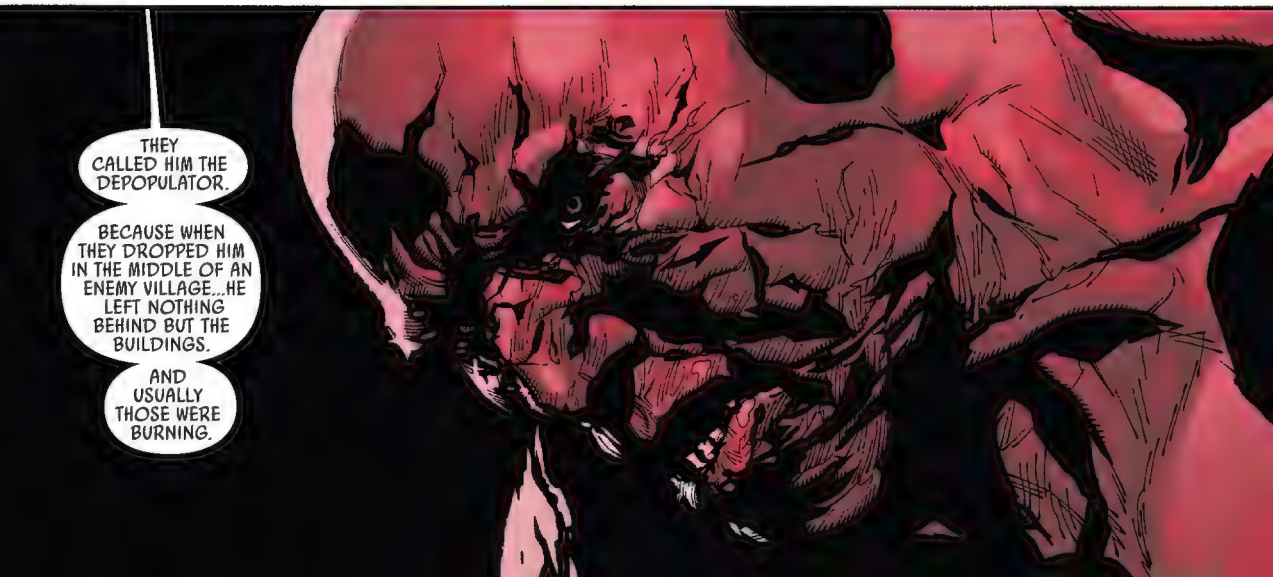
YOU'RE *DEAD* TO ME NOW, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
I'D TRY AND KEEP IT STEADY IF I WAS YOU. WHEN THEY GET FRIGHTENED THE NERFS TEND TO SHED AND SNEEZE REALLY...
OH, WHAT THE...
YOU'RE CLEANING THAT UP, KID!

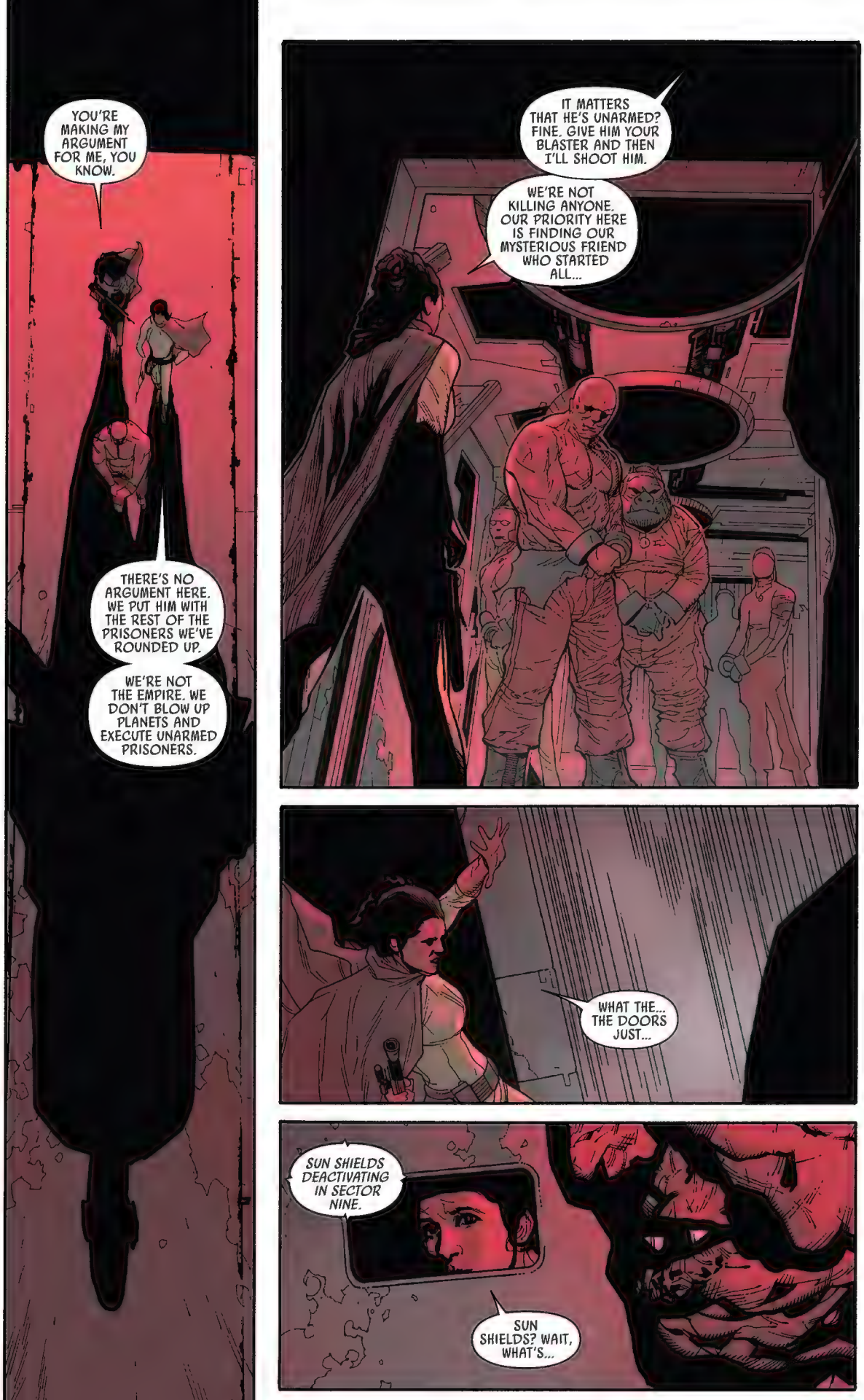
RRGHH!
UUGGH!
RRRRRRGHH!

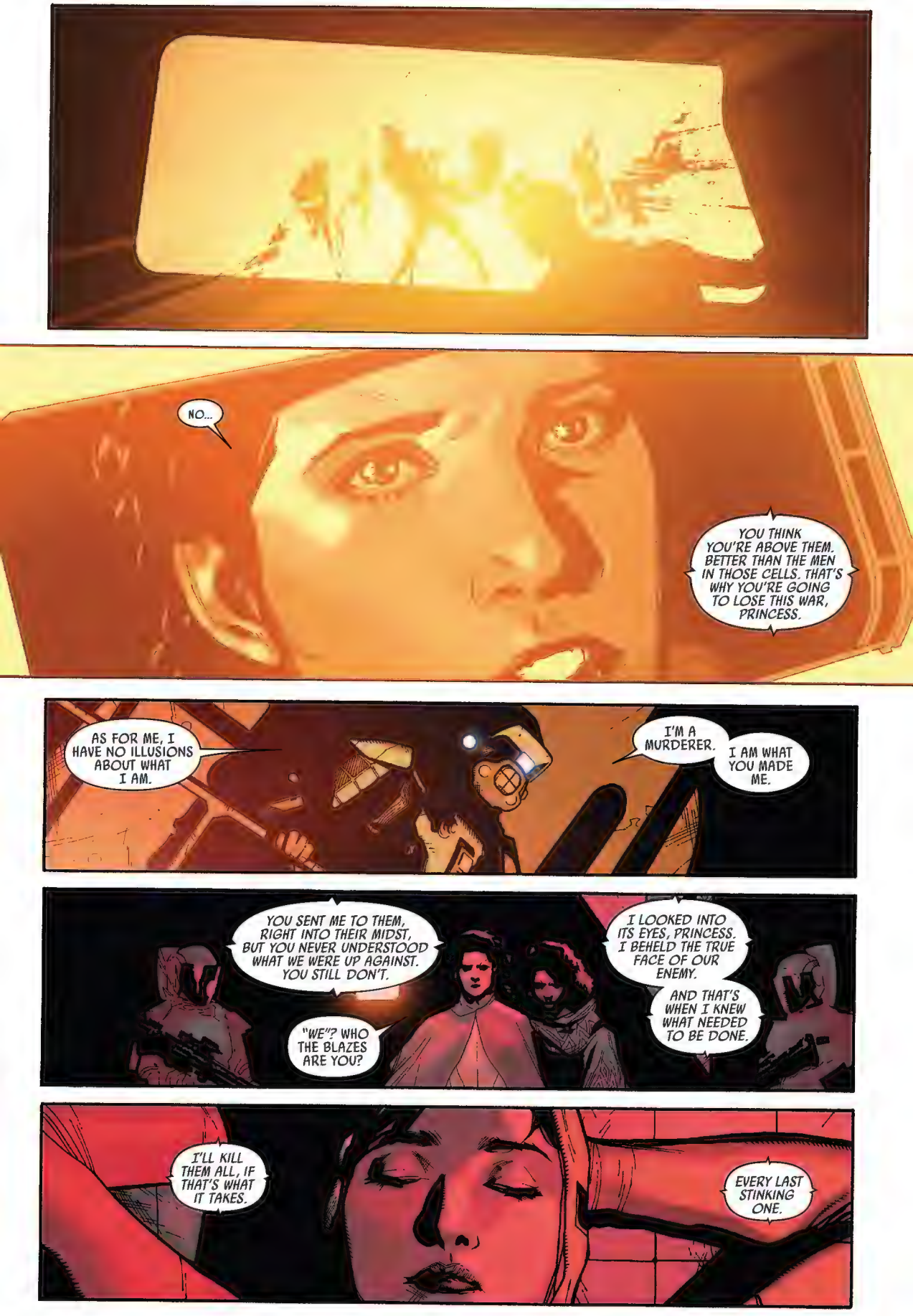
HKK!

NO ONE WOULD BLAME YOU IF YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER.

IT'D CERTAINLY BE A BETTER DEATH THAN THE ONE HE WAS ABOUT TO GIVE YOU. SOMETHING TELLS ME HE AIN'T IN HERE FOR BOOSTING SPEEDERS.
NO, HE ISN'T. HE'S KOLAR LUDD. HE WAS IMPERIAL SPECIAL FORCES.


THEY CALLED HIM THE DEPOPULATOR.
BECAUSE WHEN THEY DROPPED HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENEMY VILLAGE...HE LEFT NOTHING BEHIND BUT THE BUILDINGS.
AND USUALLY THOSE WERE BURNING.


YOU'RE MAKING MY ARGUMENT FOR ME, YOU KNOW.
THERE'S NO ARGUMENT HERE. WE PUT HIM WITH THE REST OF THE PRISONERS WE'VE ROUNDED UP.
WE'RE NOT THE EMPIRE. WE DON'T BLOW UP PLANETS AND EXECUTE UNARMED PRISONERS.
IT MATTERS THAT HE'S UNARMED? FINE. GIVE HIM YOUR BLASTER AND THEN I'LL SHOOT HIM.
WE'RE NOT KILLING ANYONE. OUR PRIORITY HERE IS FINDING OUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND WHO STARTED ALL...
WHAT THE... THE DOORS JUST...
SUN SHIELDS DEACTIVATING IN SECTOR NINE.
SUN SHIELDS? WAIT, WHAT'S...


NO...
YOU THINK YOU'RE ABOVE THEM. BETTER THAN THE MEN IN THOSE CELLS. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE THIS WAR, PRINCESS.
AS FOR ME, I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT I AM.
I'M A MURDERER.
I AM WHAT YOU MADE ME.
YOU SENT ME TO THEM, RIGHT INTO THEIR MIDST, BUT YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WERE UP AGAINST. YOU STILL DON'T.
"WE"? WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU?
I LOOKED INTO ITS EYES, PRINCESS. I BEHELD THE TRUE FACE OF OUR ENEMY.
AND THAT'S WHEN I KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.
I'LL KILL THEM ALL, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.
EVERY LAST STINKING ONE.

ATTENTION, UNKNOWN VESSEL. YOU ARE ORDERED TO CUT YOUR ENGINES AND STAND BY TO BE BOARDED.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU ARE TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL LIVESTOCK.

THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER, KID! WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE BECAUSE OF A HERD OF NERFS!

THE EMPIRE IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON OUTER RIM WORLDS THEY THINK ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ALLIANCE.

THEY NEED THESE NERFS ON IBAAR. THEY NEED THEM FOR THEIR MILK.

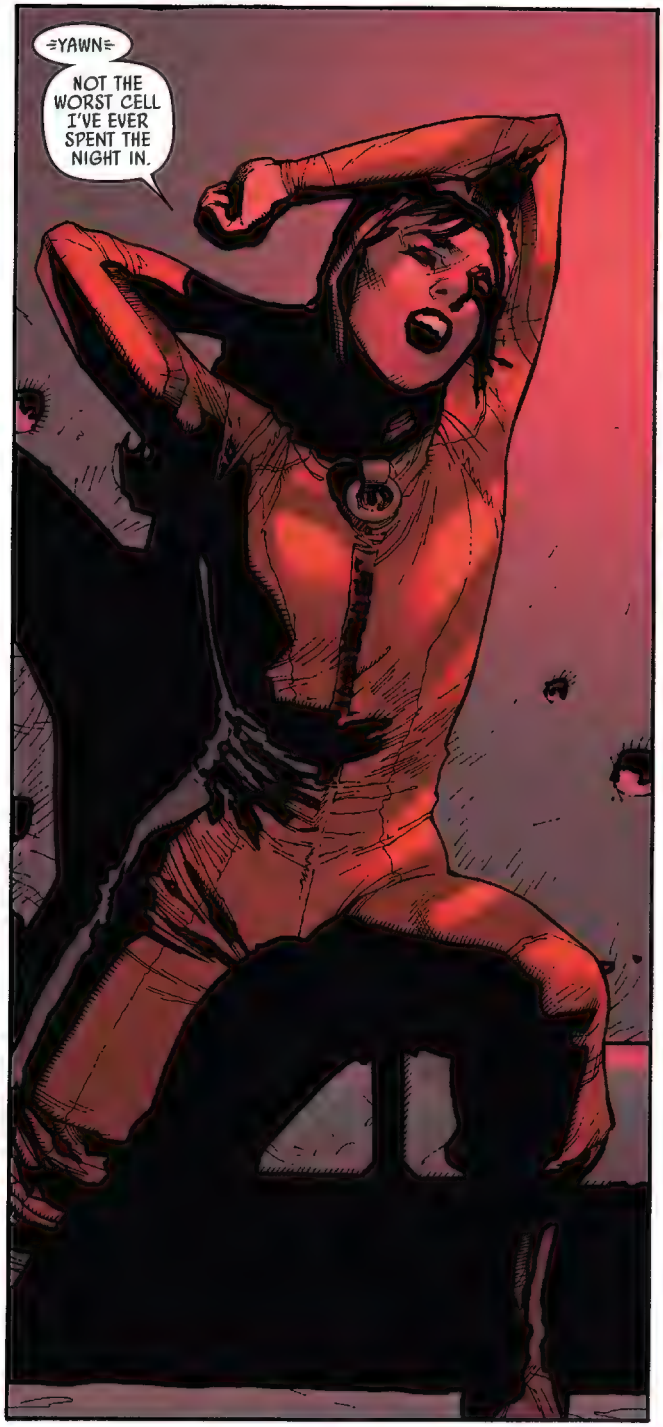
TELL THAT TO THE BUCKETHEADS!

IF YOU HAD JUST FIXED THE HYPERDRIVE...

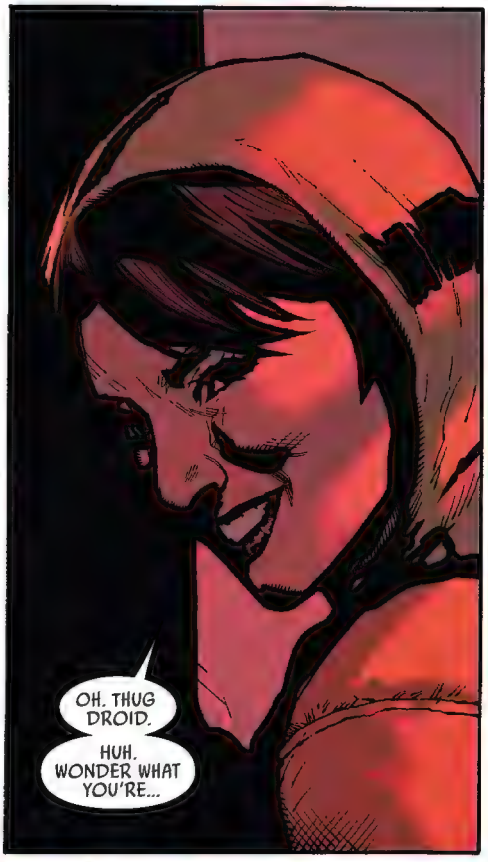
GAH, GET THIS STUPID NERF OFF ME!

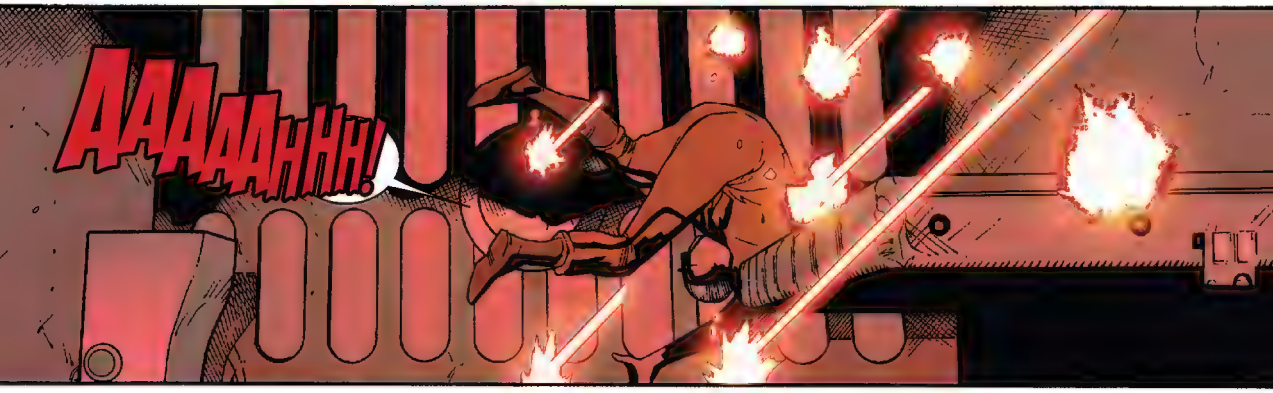
HERE, LET ME FLY. I TOLD YOU IF YOU DON'T KEEP IT STEADY THE NERFS WILL...

OH NO, NOT AGAIN!


=YAWN=
NOT THE WORST CELL I'VE EVER SPENT THE NIGHT IN.

HEY! WHEN'S CHOW TIME?
YOU HEAR ME, BIG GUY? I SAID...


OH. THUG DROID.
HUH. WONDER WHAT YOU'RE...


AAAAAHHH!

I TAKE IT BACK! I'M NOT THAT HUNGRY!
HMPH, IF YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME, AT LEAST HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT YOURSELF INSTEAD OF SENDING A DROID TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING... I WOULD DO.
NOT YOU, YOUR LAWFULNESS.
IF WE WANTED YOU DEAD, DR. APHRA, WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.
FOR THE RECORD, I'M PERFECTLY FINE WITH YOU BEING DEAD.
STAND BACK.

I STILL SAY THIS IS A REALLY BAD IDEA. AND I'VE BEEN RIGHT THE LAST FIVE TIMES I TOLD YOU THAT.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, SANA.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, DOCTOR, WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU.
SAVE ME? SAVE ME FROM...
OH.
THIS FACILITY HAS BEEN SIEGED BY A MURDEROUS MADMAN.
THE WAY I SEE IT, WE EITHER ALL WORK TOGETHER OR WE ALL DIE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOCTOR? FEEL LIKE TAKING OVER A PRISON?
HEH. YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

I WAS GONNA DO THAT ANYWAY.

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NEXT ISSUE: